

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Department
Gillis Family

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Gillis

PO Box 41734
Fayetteville, NC 28309
June 30, 1991

Dear Mrs. Strickland,

Thank you so very much for standing in for Mrs. Edwards and writing your letter of June 11. It provides me information that might otherwise have taken me months to obtain.

The possibilities against there having been two girls of identical names and ages living under identical circumstances in southern MS in 1850 must be phenomenally enormous. Consequently, the Frances Fountain living with the Sheppard Byrd family in 1850 Hancock Co must be my great-grandmother who was born Jan. 26, 1843, making her "almost" eight in Sep. 1850.

I'll have to check this with my mother, but I have never heard of the Byrds before or the A.B. Fountain who was living with the same family. According to what we now know, he could not have been Franceses brother. He would have to be an uncle or cousin.

Most of what we know about the Fountains in MS comes from tales told by Great-Grandma Frances to my mother and her eldest brother some 70 years ago and refers to events occurring some 70 years prior to that. I suspect a good bit of this family knowledge should be downgraded to family legend.

For example, Frances allegedly lived with a Redding family who had "a large plantation with many slaves". She was raised "mostly by a negro mammy", but was treated "like another daughter" by the Reddings. It sounds very much like the fantasizing of a lonely little girl.

Franceses second son was named James Stuart Gillis. Most of their other children were named after relatives, but I cannot identify any having either of those names. Perhaps the reference is to James H. Byrd. The Brunetta J. (Tisdale) Farr whom the latter married does not appear in my Tisdale files.

Some of the Fountains in southern MS probably came from GA. Hazel Coyne of Muncie, IN identified for me some Fountains (Jonathon, Seth, William), Ashleys, and McGehees in Jefferson Co of that state around 1800. The names suggest a possible connection with our Fountains. By the way, do you know if Mrs. Coyne is still alive? After you gave me her name in 1985, she and I exchanged letters, but our Fountains did not converge. She was 80 then, a really nice lady (as opposed to the real dingbats one sometimes meets via the mail), but I never got around to answering her last letter.

As soon as I get around to typing it up, I'll send you the latest Gillis information I have. Malcolm Gillis of Perry Co, MS has long been isolated, with no known connections to other Gillises, but we may be on the verge of a breakthrough. A Hattiesburg relative has uncovered the story that he had a brother, John, who lived in Copiah Co, and I've just made contact with A Gillis in TN who appears to be a descendant of this John.

Please send me a new list of your publications when available. Mrs. Edwards asked me some time ago to keep an eye open for "old" Barfields in this area. I've run across a number of them in this area. Ask her to write me when she gets settled in and tell me which ones she is specifically interested in.

Most cordially,

L. V. Hayes
La Vaughn G. Hayes

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Local History & Genealogy Department
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PO Box 41734
Fayetteville, NC 28309
July 14, 1991

Dear Mrs. Strickland,

Thanks for the note on Hazel Coyne and the price list. I may surprise you one day with an actual order.

Inclosed is the update on the Malcolm Gillis family of Perry Co. Compared to what I sent you on Nov. 29, 1985, this listing contains much additional information, but as you can also see, many lacunae still remain. Filling them will take much time, for I depend on relatives in Louisiana and Mississippi who are all "ancient" and slow to respond.

Additional information is available on many of the younger generations, but I'm not sure how far you want to go with this. For example, I could provide a more complete listing of the family of James Stuart Gillis (son of Pleasant Tisdale Gillis), but most of them were born post-1880 and in Louisiana. Actually, this is a bad example, for he was probably born in Hancock or Harrison Co and should not even be included separately in the Perry Co listing. But I think you will see what I mean.

A problem has come up with the Gillis history, and I ought to bring it to your attention. I've been carrying Catherine Jane Bayliss as the wife of Dr. John Gillis, 1835-1901, on the basis of a letter written by Paul V. Draughn to Leonardo Andrea circa 1945. It now seems that this identification is probably erroneous and that his wife may actually have been Caroline Welch. I have, in fact, listed it as such in my update input.

In WMW-Perry Co MS, Caroline Welch Gillis and three daughters were listed, but not her husband. In the 1989 update, she is identified as the wife of Dr. John Gillis, but CV/Co (Covington Co?) is entered after his name. Some of the facts, e.g. his birth date, differ from what I have been able to collect. The children's names are virtually identical, except that I identify a son. I am, of course, wondering if we could be dealing with two Dr. John Gillises.

According to my Hattiesburg relatives, our Dr. John and wife (plus two of their daughters) are buried in the family cemetery on the old Gillis place about three miles south-southeast of Hattiesburg. The above-mentioned data on Caroline Welch Gillis are sourced as "cr". Whenever you find the time, could you please check your records to see whether or not this "cr" refers to the Gillis family cemetery? If it does not, then we may have two different families mixed up, and my update on John Gillis would have to be corrected. Meanwhile, I'm writing one of my Hattiesburg cousins (Malcolm E. Gillis Sr, age 77) to see if he can help clear this matter up. He mentioned recently that the graves of the John Gillis family are unmarked, but that he knows who was buried where, a comment that is additionally mystifying in view of the "cr" data on Caroline Welch Gillis cited above.

Most cordially,

L.V. Hayes
La Vaughn H. Hayes

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Update Data for Who Married Whom-Perry Co, MS
Submitted by La Vaughn H. Hayes

Gillis, Malcolm	Scot1810	1832	Caroline Tisdale	SC1813
Pleasant Tisdale "Plez"	1833	1857	1. Sarah Mixon	1838
(CW)	Han	Co1861	2. Mary Frances Fountain	1843
John (CW)	1835	1867	Caroline Welch	1842
William Rufus (CW)	1836		Died 1863 in CW	
Nancy Jane ^p	1841		William Burkett	1842
Seaborn(e) ^p "Seab" (CW)	1842	1870	Mary Elizabeth Holder	1855
Wyatt Draughn (CW)	1845		Never married	
Zachary Taylor	1847	1874	Ann Hazeltine Burkett	1853
Margaret Mary	1849	1878	Andrew Denham Carter	1844
Elizabeth Henrietta "Liz-zie"	1853	1874	Julius Kennedy Fairley	1851
Norman Peter	1854		Never married	
 Gillis, Pleasant Tisdale	1833	1857	1. Sarah Mixon	1838
"Plez" (CW)(To LA, 1870s)	Han	Co1861	2. Mary Frances Fountain	1843
John Malcolm "Mack"	1858	1885	Sarah Elizabeth Draughn	1865
William Rufus "Rufe"	1863	LA	Annie Elizabeth (Mims) Mazilly	
James Stuart "Jim"	1866	LA	Almarinda "Rin" Clark	LA
Seaborn Wyatt	1868		Died Dec. 3, 1869	
Nancy Jane	1870		Died Sep. 30, 1881	
Jonathan Larkin "Lark"	LA1874	LA1898	1. Annie Laura Fairley	1881
		LA1907	2. Silvania Pashie Pool	LA1890
Georgia May	LA1878	LA	Albert "Ab" Doyle	LA
Mary Margaret	LA1881		Died Nov. 16, 1887	
Charles Pleasant "Charlie"	LA1884	LA1908	Lillian Clara Clark	LA1887
 Gillis, John (Doctor, CW)	1835	1867	Caroline Welch	1842
Mary Ella	1868	1889	Josh R. Dunham	
Margurite Estelle	1874		Never married	
Caroline G. "Carrie"	1876		? Cunningham	
John J.	1885			
 Gillis, Seaborn(e) D.	1842	1870	Mary Elizabeth Holder	1855
"Seab" (CW)				
Harper H. (To LA)	1871		Georgiana	
Walter P.	1873			
George L.	1875			
Charles L. "Charlie"	1879			
Alonzo				
Wyatt				
Reuben				
Annie				
Emma				
John				
 Gillis, Zachary Taylor	1847	1874	Ann Hazeltine Burkett	1853
Herbert	1875	+1900	Alma Rush	1879
Frederick Gabriel	1877		1. Lillie Cox	
			2. Josie	
Malcolm	1879		Elizabeth (Tisdale) Cranford	1882

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2

Ethelbert	1881		Alzada Barksdale	
Floyd Eugene	1883		Irma Dillehay	
Thomas West	1885		Never married	
Carter, Andrew Denham	1844	1878	Margaret Mary Gillis	1849
Caroline "Carrie"	1879			
Colin P.				
Robert W.				
John A.				
Andrew D.				
Estelle				
Dewey				
Fairley, Julius Kennedy	1851	1874	Elizabeth Henrietta "Lizzie" Gillis	1853
(To LA)				
Malcolm	1875			
Rosabella	1877			
Margaret	1878			
Annie Laura	1881	LA1898	Jonathan Larkin "Lark" Gillis	LA1874
Gillis, Herbert	1875	†1900	Alma Rush	1879
Herbert Dudley				
Gillis, Malcolm	1879		Elizabeth (Tisdale) Cranford	1882
Mildred Elizabeth	1912		Paul Bailey (Doctor)	
Malcolm Edward	1914		Sybil Buckhalter	

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Gillis

2021 Biltmore Dr
Fayetteville, NC 28304
September 30, 1991

Dear Mrs. Strickland,

On July 14, I sent you a letter inclosing a two-page update on the Malcolm Gillis family of Perry Co and posing some questions about the putative relationship of Dr. John Gillis of this family to Caroline (Welch) Gillis.

Last week, Malcolm E. Gillis Sr of Hattiesburg sent me a number of documents relating to both matters.

As a result, I would like to withdraw the update in order to correct it. I'll send you the new data sheets whenever I finish correcting and updating them.

The documents received indicate rather conclusively that Dr. John Gillis married Catherine Jane Bayliss, a daughter of George Bayliss of Jones Co. Dr. John apparently learned his medicine from Dr. John McCormick Bayliss, Catherine's brother, in whose household both were living per the census of 1860.

Whoever has been furnishing you the information that Dr. John Gillis and Caroline Welch were spouses is evidently badly mistaken. Alternatively, there was a second Dr. John Gillis in the area, but this seems rather doubtful. Caroline is evidently not a second wife, either, for John and Catherine both died in the 1901-04 period.

Cordially yours,

L.V. Hayes
La Vaughn H. Hayes

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Local History & Genealogy Department
Gillis Family

Gillis

2021 Biltmore Dr
Fayetteville, NC 28304
January 8, 1986

Dear Pat,

Thank you most kindly for your letter of Dec. 30, 1985 and for the data on the Gillises and Tisdales.

In the interim, I have received Scots and Their Kin, Volume I by Clayton Gillis Metcalf, in which our Malcolm Gillis family is listed. Mr. Metcalf has published other books of genealogical interest, to include The Gillis Family in the South. Between these two books, there are more Gillises listed than one can shake a stick at. Many other families of Scottish origin are also mentioned, no "old" Barfields, however. Metcalf's address is Metcalf Enterprises, 408 North Rawls St, Enterprise, AL 36330, in case you should ever need it.

Metcalf's data on our Malcolm was furnished by a Gillis in Tennessee, whom I have just written. Metcalf was unable to tie our family in with any of the other Gillises, so no real progress backwards has been made.

But one thing is certain: The Norman Gillis of 1820 Franklin and 1830 Jefferson Counties was not the father of our Malcolm. He was a direct ancestor of the Norman Gillis who published the Mississippi census books, and Jean Strickland sent me last month some photocopied pages written by the latter in which he listed the children and some grandchildren of that earlier Norman. Metcalf also lists them.

That Norman is apparently different from the Norman Gillis of 1830 Perry Co, MS, but his wife was Margaret Jane Burke, who is listed in Who Married Whom - Perry Co, MS as the wife of the Perry Co Norman. This is apparently an error, but can you verify that? Is it possible that the same Norman Gillis could be identified as living in two counties (Jefferson and Perry) in 1830? More intriguingly, the data given Metcalf shows the youngest son of our Malcolm to have been named Norman Peter Gillis. The middle name probably comes from his mother's brother, Peter Corbin Tisdale; we may suspect that the first name comes from one of Malcolm's relatives, possibly one of the aforesaid Normans. The search goes on.

The list you sent of Gillises from Richmond Co, NC (which is some 50 miles southwest of here) is most interesting. One of my cousins, Roy Gillis of De Quincy, LA, visited distant relatives in Hattiesburg, MS several years ago and was told that our Malcolm's name was really John Malcolm, that he had come from Richmond Co, NC, and that his father, Malcolm, had been living in the latter county in 1810. Roy was not told the source of this information, and I have not given it much credence for several reasons. One of these is that Metcalf's books identify a Malcolm Gillis living in 1810 Richmond Co, NC and list the latter's children. None of the children were born in 1810 or 1812, and none were named Malcolm or John Malcolm. I suspect that someone had read a census report somewhere and come to their own unjustified conclusions, but some of what Roy was told may actually have come from Metcalf's first book, The Gillis Family...

Willie Mae Wade sent me some data on the Tisdales which has created more confusion than clarity. The earliest Tisdale picture I have is as follows:

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2

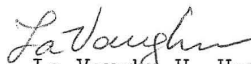
John Tisdale Senior	NC?1730	Jane Singleton? or James?	
Prudence	1763 SC1785	Joshua Draughn	NC1760
Pleasant		Polly "Mary" Flowers?	
Haley		Sarah	
Sherwood			
Tabitha		Benjamin Parker	
John Junior		Nancy Billups	
Francis		Mary Denson	
Seaborn?			

Pleasant is the only one that moved to Mississippi, as far as I know. Mrs. Wade identifies him as William Pleasant and the father of the William Pleasant who was born in 1775 and who settled eventually in Jones Co, MS, becoming the "urpapa" of all the Tisdales you listed for me. I have several doubts about the validity of her identification. I'm in the process of writing to Willie Mae to see how we can clarify this puzzle.

In reference to the Arthur Wall living with Malcolm Gillis in 1850. There existed a relationship between a Wall family and the Tisdales that is difficult to fathom at present. John Wall, born in 1800 in Alabama, married Charlotte Tisdale of South Carolina; Edward Wall, his brother, married Charlotte's sister, name unknown; Jane Tisdale, a daughter of Peter Corbin Tisdale, a son of Pleasant Tisdale, married Micajah Tisdale Wall, a son of John Wall; and Lula Tisdale, Jane's sister, married John Jackson Wall, Micajah's brother. This is all second-hand information, and Charlotte Tisdale does not yet fit in with any of the Tisdale families I know of. Some of these people seem also to be listed in Who Married Whom - Perry Co, MS. Maybe you can make heads or tails of it.

If I run across anything on the early Barfields, I'll be sure to let you know what I've found.

Most cordially,


La Vaughn H. Hayes

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Gillis

2021 Biltmore Dr
Fayetteville, NC 28304
November 29, 1985

Ben Strickland
PO Box 5147
Moss Point, MS 39563

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the rapid dispatch of Who Married Whom - Perry County, MS, which arrived here safely a few days ago.

I'm inclosing an amplified listing of three families cited in the book, which may be of some usefulness to you or your contacts. The data on the Gillises come primarily from family knowledge. Pleasant T. and M. Frances Gillis were my maternal great-grandparents. The data on the Tisdales and Draughns come primarily from a compilation prepared in 1954 by Leonardo Andrea (now deceased) of Columbia, SC, who researched records in the Sumter and Clarendon Cos of SC and elsewhere.

The inclosed listing fills a gap in the continuity between the earliest and later Tisdales and Draughns cited in the book. I am hoping that you may be able to help me in filling a similar gap that exists between the Gillises of Perry Co. Please allow me to explain.

I have not been able to trace Malcolm Gillis beyond Perry County. Although he was reportedly born in NC and although I now live in Cumberland County of that state, an area into which many Gillises immigrated from Scotland in the mid 1700's, no evidence has surfaced that would connect our Malcolm to the local Gillises.

On the other hand, there existed two Norman Gillises who were in this area at the time of the 1800 and 1810 censuses, but were not listed in the 1820 census. Now, two Norman Gillises appear in the 1820 census of MS, one in Perry Co and another in Franklin Co. One of these may well have been the father of our Malcolm, but a relationship can only be inferred from relative places and times.

The data on Norman Gillis of Perry Co is keyed as derived from "family knowledge", but none of the contributors listed in the back of the book is shown to have given data on the Gillis family. Further, no mention of this Norman Gillis has ever been made in the recollections of my mother's branch of the Gillis family. Is it possible that you might have in your files the name and address of a source who might be able to shed some light on a possible connection between our Malcolm and the other Gillises of Perry Co?

Any help you may give me will of course be most greatly appreciated. If you cannot help on this matter, no reply is necessary.

Thank you,

La Vaughn H. Hayes
La Vaughn H. Hayes

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Gillis Family**

Gillis, Malcolm	NC1812?	1832	Caroline Tisdale	SC1813
Pleasant Tisdale "Plez"	1833	1857	1. Sarah Mixon	1840
		1861	2. Mary Frances Fountain	1843
John	1835			
William Rufus	1836			
Nancy J(ane?)	1840		William Burkett	1820
Seaborne D.	1842	1870	Mary Eliz. "Terry" Holder	1855
Wyatt	1844			
Zachary Taylor	1847	1874	Ann Haseltine Burkett	1853
Margaret M(ary?) or Mary Margaret	1850	1878	Andrew D. Carter	1844
Henrietta Elizabeth	1853	1874	Julius K. Fairley	1851
Peter	1854			

Notes: According to family legend, Malcolm spoke Gaelic better than he did English and the family had changed their name from McGillis (or MacGillis?) upon leaving Scotland (time unknown). One family source gives Malcolm's birthdate as Dec. 25, 1810, reportedly based on an entry in a bible held by relatives in the Hattiesburg, MS area. Pleasant Tisdale divorced his first wife and married Mary Frances Fountain on Dec. 11, 1861, possibly in Jones Co, MS. He served with Co. A, 9th MS Cav, CSA, and was a Union POW from 1862-1865. He moved to Calcasieu Parish, LA in the mid 1870's; some of his kin (Carters, Fairleys, Burketts, and children of Zachary Taylor) followed him there later. He named most of his children by Mary Frances after siblings; two daughters were Nancy Jane and Mary Margaret, whence the question marks on his sisters' names above. John (one source also gives John Tisdale) was reportedly the first doctor in Hattiesburg, MS.

Tisdale, Pleasant	SC1775?		Polly "Mary"	NC1784?
Caroline	SC1813	1832	Pleasant T. Gillis	1833
Peter Corbin	SC1814		Lazarella Allen	
Seaborne	SC1815		Levicy Myers	
Mallie			Moses Jones	
Pleasant			Died as young man	

Notes: Pleasant (Sr.) and his nephew, John T. Draughn, moved their families from Sumter or Clarendon Co, SC to Perry Co, MS in early 1818. Pleasant's father, John Tisdale (Sr.), served with General Francis "The Swamp Fox" Marion in the Revolutionary War and owned a large estate (plantation) in SC at the time of his death in 1813 at age 83. Peter Corbin died in Newton Co, MS in 1848. Seaborne (or Seabron?) moved to LA at an unknown date. Analysis of census data suggests that Pleasant was born in or prior to 1770, his wife in the period 1770-1774, and that they may have had as many as seven other daughters who were born between 1805 and 1830, all apparently dying at very young ages. It is not clear whether the Moses B. Jones of Perry Co, MS is the same Moses Jones that Mallie married. Other relatives accompanied Pleasant on the move from SC; William Tisdale of Perry Co was probably one of these. His relationship to Pleasant is not clear, but he apparently was not a brother since he is not mentioned in the wills of either of Pleasant's parents.

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Draughn, John Tisdale	SC1787	SC1812	Martha Courtney	SC1788
Prudence Matilda	SC1812	1830	Andrew E. Denham	1805
Rufus Tisdale	SC1814	1839	Sabra Ann Davis	GA1821
Wyatt Joshua	SC1815	1847	Alice Jane Pope	SC1830
Sarah Ann	SC1817		Died July 12, 1820	

Notes: John Tisdale was the son of Joshua Draughn and Prudence Tisdale. She was a sister of Pleasant Tisdale, born in 1763, and died on July 3, 1787 in SC. His wife, Martha Courtney, was the daughter of John Courtney and Sarah Hodge Courtney of SC; the Courtneys of Perry Co were probably relatives since John Courtney Jr. and Benjamin Hodge Courtney were Martha's brothers. After John's death, Martha married Colonel Griffin E. Holloman (also cited as Griffin H. Holliman) of Perry Co.

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*Gillis
Tisdales
Draughns*

2021 Biltmore Dr
Fayetteville, NC 28304
November 29, 1985

Ben Strickland
PO Box 5147
Moss Point, MS 39563

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